

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (New) Target support assembly (1), comprising a cylindrical support sleeve (2) on which is arranged a target lining formed by a cylindrical target sleeve (4) that is slidingly arranged on the support sleeve (2), wherein a plurality of elastically-active clamping elements (6) being distributed between the facing circumferences of said sleeves are each arranged in a respective recess (8) of a plurality of recesses formed in the external cylindrical surface of the support sleeve (2), each said clamping element (6) having a portion (6a) press-fitted in the therewith associated recess (8) and possessing a radially projecting portion (6a, b, c) in clamping contact with the internal cylindrical surface of the target sleeve (4) that is located opposite said clamping elements (6); the clamping elements (6) each comprising an elastically deformable and/or elastically compressible electrically and thermally conductive material; each of said clamping elements (6) being constituted of an angled leaf spring having the portion (6c) forming a base arm (6d) extending along the bottom of the therewith associated recess (8) and wherein the base arm (6e) has opposite ends wedged between the side walls of the recess (8) and a clamping arm (6a) of said clamping element extending radially angled outwardly from said recess (8), said clamping arm (6a) having a free end forming an outwardly curvilinear portion (6b, c) for clampingly contacting the oppositely located surface of the target sleeve (4).

18. (New) Target support assembly (I), comprising a cylindrical support sleeve (2) on which is arranged a target lining formed by a cylindrical target sleeve (4) that is slidingly arranged on the support sleeve (2), wherein a plurality of elastically active clamping elements (6) distributed between the facing circumferences of said sleeves are each arranged in a respective recess (8) of a plurality of recesses formed in the internal cylindrical surface of the target sleeve (4), each said clamping element (6) having a portion (6a) press-fitted in the therewith associated recess (8) and possessing a radially projecting portion (6a, b, c) in clamping contact with the external cylindrical surface of the support sleeve (2) that is located opposite said clamping elements (6); the clamping elements (6) each comprising an elastically deformable and/or elastically compressible electrically and thermally conductive material; each of said clamping elements (6) being constituted of an angled leaf spring having the portion (6c) forming a base arm (6d) extending along the bottom of the therewith associated recess (8), and wherein the base arm (6e) has opposite ends wedged between the side walls of the recess (8) and a clamping arm (6a) of said clamping element extending radially angled outwardly from said recess (8), said clamping arm (6a) having a free end forming an outwardly curvilinear portion (6b, c) for clampingly contacting the oppositely located surface of the support sleeve. (2).

19. (New) Target support assembly according to Claim 17 or 18, wherein the clamping elements (6) have selectively rounded or oblique insertion edges (6b, 6c) on both sides facing in an axial direction.

20. (New) Target support assembly according to Claim 17 or 18, wherein the clamping elements (6) have in each case a clamping arm (6a) that exerts the clamping pressure exerted with the free end portion of the clamping arm (6a).

21. (New) Target support assembly according to Claim 17 or 18, wherein an insertion segment (6c) is arranged at the free end of the clamping arm (6a) and forms an angled or rounded roof-shaped element with the clamping arm (6a).

22. (New) Target support assembly according to Claim 21, wherein the free end of the insertion segment (6c) is supported in opposition to the clamping pressure in the clamping position thereof.

23. (New) Target support assembly (I), comprising a cylindrical support sleeve (2) on which is arranged a target lining formed by a cylindrical target sleeve (4) that is slidingly arranged on the support sleeve (2), wherein a plurality of elastically active clamping elements (6) distributed between the facing circumferences of said sleeves are each arranged in a respective recess (8) of a plurality of recesses formed in the external cylindrical surface of the support sleeve (2), each said clamping element (6) having a portion (6a) located in the therewith associated recess (8) and a radially projecting portion (6b, c) in clamping contact with the internal cylindrical surface of the target-sleeve (4) located opposite said clamping elements (6); the clamping elements (6) each comprising an elastically deformable and/or elastically compressible electrically and thermally conductive material; each of said clamping elements (6) being constituted of a ring-shaped tubular member of hollow cross-section having portion (6a) extending along a curved bottom of the therewith associated recess (8) and between the side walls of the recess (8), and with portion (6b, c) forming a resilient clamping

surface extending radially outwardly of said recess (8), said clamping surface (6b, c) having a deformable curvilinear shape for clampingly contacting the oppositely located surface of the target sleeve.

24. (New) Target support assembly (I), comprising a cylindrical support sleeve (2) on which is arranged a target lining formed by a cylindrical target sleeve (4) that is slidingly arranged on the support sleeve (2), wherein a plurality of elastically active clamping elements (6) distributed between the facing circumferences of said sleeves are each arranged in a respective recess (8) of a plurality of recesses formed in the internal cylindrical surface of the target sleeve (4), each said clamping element (6) having a portion (6a) located in the therewith associated recess (8) and a radially projecting portion (6a, b, c) in clamping contact with the external cylindrical surface of the support sleeve (2) located opposite said clamping elements (6); the clamping elements (6) each comprising an elastically deformable and/or elastically compressible electrically and thermally conductive material; each of said clamping elements (6) being constituted of a ring-shaped tubular member of hollow cross-section having portion (6a) extending along a curved bottom of the therewith associated recess (8) and between the side walls of the recess (8), and with portion (6b, c) forming a resilient clamping surface extending radially outwardly of said recess (8), said clamping surface (6b, c) having a deformable curvilinear shape for clampingly contacting the oppositely located surface of the support sleeve.

25. (New) Target support assembly according to Claim 23 or 24, wherein the clamping elements (6) have, at least in the area of an opening of the therewith associated recess (8), a shape that is convexly rounded, viewed transversely to the axial direction of the support sleeve.

26. (New) Target support assembly according to Claim 23 or 24, wherein the clamping elements (6) and the recess (8) have an annular configuration.

27. (New) Target support assembly according to any one of Claims 17, 18, 23 or 24, wherein at least one of said recesses (8) is formed as a groove (8a, 8b) selectively extending in the annularly circumferential, or axial direction, or helically on said cylindrical sleeves.

28. (New) Target support assembly according to any one of Claims 17, 18, 23 or 24, wherein the length (L1) of the support sleeve (2) is greater than the length (L2) of the target sleeve (4) and at least one annular limiting part (9) is fixed detachably on the support sleeve (2) at selectively one or both ends of the target sleeve (4).